Measuring Up: Best Practices

measuring up™
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2010 LEGACIES NOW™

BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

Tips for Success

Implementing Measuring Up in your community can be a very rewarding process, and it is often helpful to have some tips for how to get started. To help support communities, we have developed a set of best practices that come from the experiences of the over 100 communities across B.C. who are already involved with Measuring Up.

Build a strong Measuring Up community committee.

Engaging a wide range of community stakeholders is key to ensuring success with Measuring Up. By doing so, you make sure that the widest possible range of perspectives and experiences are considered, and that people's voices are heard.

Here is a list of suggested community groups to include:

- Persons with a range of disabilities, including:
  - Hearing disabilities
  - Visual disabilities
  - Physical disabilities
  - Developmental disabilities
  - Intellectual disabilities
  - Mental Health disabilities
  - Temporary or chronic health conditions
  - Other
- Local government
- Aboriginal groups
- Social services
- Health services
- Education services
- Ethno-cultural groups
- Older persons
- Youth
- Local businesses (example: Chamber of Commerce)
- Other groups important in your community

Hire a coordinator

As with any community process, implementing Measuring Up requires time and attention to keep it on track. For many communities hiring a coordinator or dedicating staff-time to the process has been very important for their success.

Build strategic partnerships

Building relationships with organizations and individuals who have influence or who provide key services in your community can be vital in making your Measuring Up implementation successful. These partnerships can also support you in stretching your resources and will help to strengthen your process.

Develop relationships with local media

The local media can be a great support when implementing Measuring Up. Media coverage can help you to advertise your process, gain new committee members, celebrate your successes and engage your whole community.

Decide to focus – choose your priorities

Although all of the elements of the Measuring Up Guide (Support Services, Access to Information, Economic Participation, and Community Contribution) are important to consider, many communities have found it helpful to choose one or two of the elements to focus on when implementing Measuring Up. This has allowed them to focus their resources and to channel community participation towards a clear goal.

Take the time to get the wider community participating

Getting the wider community involved on a continuing basis has been key for the success for many Measuring Up communities. This can include facilitating group workshops, hosting community forums, organizing personal interviews, developing focus groups and other forms of community consultation.

Choose easy-win projects first

By choosing initial projects that are practical, manageable and affordable within your current resources you will strengthen your initiative, and will increase your profile in the community. You will also be able to demonstrate to the community that their voices have been heard, and that you are acting on their ideas.

Contact 2010 Legacies Now's Measuring Up team

We're here to help. Feel free to contact us regularly to talk about your experiences, share your own best practices or to communicate challenges. Our website also has lots of helpful information posted for use by Measuring Up communities. As well, if requested, we can provide on site support and can visit your community to participate in an event, attend a meeting, give a presentation or generally support your Measuring Up implementation process. We look forward to hearing from you.

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